



STEP IN THE ARENA

# Gang Starr Lyrics

"Name Tag (Premier & The Guru)"

*[Guru]*

The DJ's name is Premier, and I'm the Guru *[echoes]*

*[x2]*

*[music fades]*

*[sound of a large crowd cheerin]*

Will you please!

Will you please, take your seats and clear the aisles?!

*[rapping sound, three times]*

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Step In The Arena"

*[DJ Premier cuts the phrase] "Step up..." over and over*

*[Guru]*

Once you step in the arena, cheater; you're gonna be a-  
mazed when you gaze at the armor on this leader  
Fully clad and glad to find a cause, I won't pause  
Fear is a joke, slowpoke, I'm like claws  
that'll rip 'cause your gift, is merely flesh  
Superficial and I wish you, would give it a rest  
But if you don't, I'll unsheath my Excalibur  
Like a noble knight, so meet ya challenger  
A true hero, while you're a through zero  
Gettin beat to a pulp so that you can't run for help  
I heard a gulp in your throat, cause you hope that I'll be merciful  
but coo-cluck, I made you strut as I rehearse a few  
battle drills, and watch your bladder spill  
yellow fluid, check out how I mellowed into it  
Face to feet to defeat, you can tell I'm into it  
As I'm pullin out my lance, to kill you and advance to  
the winner's throne; cause I own you once you step in the arena

*[DJ Premier cuts the phrase] "Step up..." over and over*

*[Guru]*

In the arena... or rather colliseum  
There's people gatherin by multitudes to see one  
perpretrator fall to the dust after the other  
Quickly disposed of at the hand of a known brother  
Born wit the art in his heart that is Spartacus  
And one-to-one combat Jack, just a thought of this  
match-up, makes GangStarr wanna snatch up  
one or two phrases from the new book with new pages  
of rhymes that are built like a chariot  
Dope vocals carry it, to the battle set  
If a beat was a princess, I would marry it  
But now I must bow to the crowd as I stand proud  
Victorius, glorious, understand now  
cause battles and wars and much fights I have been through  
One MC got beheaded, and you can too  
Forget it, cause you'd rather be just a spectator  
An onlooker, afraid you may get slayed or  
struck by a blow, from a mic gladiator  
I betcha that later you might be sad that you played yourself  
cause you stepped up, chest puffed out  
And in just one lyric, you got snuffed out  
Cause rhymin is serious, I'm strong, I'm like Hercules  
You'll get hurt with these lines, close the curtains please

and suckers can jet cause I wreck once you step in the arena

*[DJ Premier cuts the phrase]* "Step inside my... arena" over and over

*[Guru]*

In the arena or forum, weak MC's I will floor 'em  
Causin mayhem, I'll slay them, and the blood'll be pourin  
Furthermore I implore, that as a soldier of war  
I go in only to win and be the holder of more  
trophies, titles, and triumphs cause I dump all the sly chumps  
Never choosin to lose my spot, not once  
For the mere idea of an opponent that I fear  
is foolish utterly, I mean but none'll be  
tryin to toy wit a destroyer of many  
You shitted your pants cause you can't figure any  
foe that can step to this concept so  
tou better sit again citizen, weak MC's I get rid of them  
Watch the way they get distraught when they get caught  
in the worst positions, cause they didn't listen  
and tried goin up against a hungry killer who's itchin  
to mame and murder, those who claimed that they were the  
toughest ones, they get done once they step in the arena

*[DJ Premier cuts the phrase]* "Step inside my... arena"

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Form Of Intellect"

*[DJ Premier cuts:]*

*[KRS-One:]* "Intelligent but not yet equivalent"

*[Guru]*

Tell me, do you have a clue of what to do  
Can you groove to this smooth tune, you must presume  
it's important, for you to follow this creation  
And hey Son, life is more than having fun  
So run and get some help with the problems that you face  
Take a taste of the bass put your perspective in place  
Get real, deep, so you can keep involved  
Revolve and solve, so you can make the calls  
like a supervisor he who is wiser than the others  
Cause they need someone to advise them to discover  
things that they don't know so the papers I will check  
Then they'll start to grow to this form of intellect

*[DJ Premier cuts:]*

*[unknown:]* "individual with intellect"

*[Guru]*

When the road is too steep, do you have the stamina  
First album took us two weeks, since then we have been plannin  
an exclusive attraction, produce it to your satisfaction  
Those of you lackin, we will put you back in your slime  
so you can think and get a grip of  
yourself by yourself, and then you'll get a sip of  
a gift that's equipped with the script that shocks  
You can take a walk ?on God?  
With your mouth wide open, hoping you can find a  
way to display similar actions in a kind of mockery  
Cause you don't realize the cost to be  
creative genius please, I'm too clean to play  
Glance per chance, watch GangStarr perfect  
And dance your pants like champs, to this form of intellect

*[DJ Premier cuts:]*

*[Lord Finesse:]* "Man with intellect"

Valuable solutions, we invent here  
Break and remake the cupcakes to show we've been sent here  
to serve you, so swallow this and bite it  
And why bring, ignorance when we're inviting  
you to get advancement, while you're on the dance tip  
And don't you know the transcript will make you shake hips  
Or chill at will, and with skill, you'll learn some etiquette  
Better get the subject or be last at the predicate

And get a set, of headphones and speakers  
As lyrical lessons manifest, I will keep you  
abrest of the best, in this rap mess  
Oversaturated market, full of wackness  
I'm Gifted Unlimited, Rhymes Universal  
The GURU, nursing you with a verse spilled  
Don't choke, and don't turn blue in a frenzy  
Premier's severe, on the steel wheels he lends me  
spontaneous cuts, but not mainly just that  
It's the scratching format, exact with maddening accuracy  
Craftily, on the side or in back of me  
Nastily, as if his name was Dick Dastardly  
Original so get it yo the Gang gets respect  
The chain and the star is a symbol, of this form of intellect

*[DJ Premier cuts:] "intelligent but not yet equivalent" [to the end]*

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Execution Of A Chump (No More Mr. Nice Guy Pt. 2)"

I knew this chump see... he tried to play me  
He was my right hand man, but he betrayed me  
I let him chill at my crib, cause we were down and  
I went to work everyday while he was loungin  
He tried to backstab, he kept on jokin  
He didn't know he could've got his back broken  
I had to cut homeboy off for even tryin that  
His game was mad weak, know what I'm sayin black?  
Stepped to him quietly, he copped a plea  
Told him to fix it or I'd have to catch a body  
In this society, there's many snakes  
Don't be too eager when you're seeking a break  
Cause chumps will exploit, use you to benefit  
So just be keen and, learn all the ins of it  
I've had my share, of dealing with fake men  
I left them squealing, "It was I who did the taking"  
Proceeding exactly, according to plan  
I foiled the scheme cause it seemed I was that man  
And if you step up like the kid who did front  
You will bear witness... the execution of a chump

Now, now... let's get the purpose of it  
I'm snatchin hearts out of chumps, cause I deserve to love it  
Observin acts of a snake, while I evaluate  
Eliminate the nucleus, I'm doin this  
Pissed usin fists usin force of any sort  
My conscience says it's nonsense, if I put up with it  
It meaning sleazy, sorry-type slick types  
I'll drive em all to danger, and make em hitchike  
Cause if you step up like the kid who did front  
You will bear witness... the execution of a chump

Call me the Guru... known as a spiritual teacher  
I'll reach you deftly, directly, correctly so select me  
Elect me as your prophet and we'll praise him as I drop it  
Pursue this, review this, I knowledge more than buddhist monks, punk  
I'll wreck the set and grab a big chunk  
Known to be a wise one, known to be a seeker  
Following my calling in life, so I can keep the  
minds in line to find devine designs of rhyme  
Rewind this on your box one time  
But if you step up like the kid who did front  
You will bear witness... the execution of a chump





# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Who's Gonna Take The Weight?"

*[Intro]*

"Knowledge is power, and knowledge can be the difference between life or death...you should know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

*[Verse 1]*

I was raised like a Muslim  
Prayin' to the East  
Nature of my life relates rhymes I release  
like a cannon  
Cuz I been plannin' to be rammin' what I wrote  
straight on a plate down your throat  
So digest as I suggest we take a good look  
At who's who while I'm readin' from my good book  
And let's dig into every nook and every cranny  
Set your mind free as I slam these thoughts  
And just like a jammy goes pow *[FX: Gunshots]*  
You're gonna see what I'm sayin' now  
You can't be sleepin'  
cuz things are gettin' crazy  
You better stop being lazy  
There's many people frontin'  
And many brothers droppin'  
All because of dumb things, let me tell you somethin'  
I've been through so much that I'm such  
a maniac, but I still act out of faith  
that we can get the shit together so I break  
on fools with no rhymes skills messin' up the flow  
And people with no sense who be movin' much too slow  
And so, you will know the meaning of the Gang Starr  
Guru with the mic and Premier raise the anchor  
swiftly, as we embark on a journey  
I had to get an attorney  
I needed someone to defend my position  
Decisions I made, cuz now it's time to get paid  
And ladies, these rhymes are like the keys to a dope car  
Maybe a Lexus or a Jaguar  
Still, all of that is just material  
So won't you dig the scenario  
And just imagine if each one is teachin' one  
We'll come together so that we become  
A strong force, then we can stay on course  
Find your direction through introspection  
And for my people out there I got a question  
Can we be the sole controllers of our fate?  
Now who's gonna take the weight?

*[Verse 2]*

The weight of the world is heavy on my mind  
So as my feelings unwind I find  
That some try to be down just cuz it's trendy  
Others fall victim to envy  
But I'll take the road less travelled  
So I can see all my hopes and my dreams unravel  
Relievin' your stress, expressin' my interest  
In the situation that you're facin'  
That's why I'm down with the Nation  
Spirituality supports reality  
We gotta fight with the right mentality  
So we can gain what is rightfully ours  
This is the meaning of the chain and the star  
Land is power, so gimme forty acres  
Let's see how far I can take ya  
Original invincible  
That's how I'm lookin' at it  
I use my rhymes like a Glock automatic  
Any means necessary, I'm goin' all out  
Before the rains bring the nuclear fallout  
So let me ask you, is it too late?  
Ayo, who's gonna take the weight

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Beyond Comprehension"

Expanding the depth of your brainpower  
Ours is a better gift, not to be bragging nor lolligagging  
I can see dimensions of sound and light around my mic  
Transmitting lyrics like teletype  
Reacting to a beat in a whisper  
And like a transistor, I'm sounding dope when I'm crisper  
The shortest length between two points is a straight line  
I've gotta take mine, I heard it through the grapevine  
that some can't find hype lines (hype lines...)  
And so I'm smothering, over my prey I am hovering  
Suckers I'm shoving at the same time covering  
you with the blanket of some language that's distinguished  
How swift can I get? You ask and I'll tell  
For I can excel real well like a gazelle  
Past your head, I'm grabbin abstract thought  
Like some gain glory, while others get no part  
I feel for the hurt ones, the victims of wrong deeds  
Awareness is key, our people have strong needs  
Science, math, history theology  
Philosophy psychology english and biology  
Et cetera, and all of these have a purpose  
But genocide makes me nervous  
So many questions, many opinions to mention  
And damn (damn...) this jam's beyond comprehension

Like planets in orbit, we ride the life cycle  
Some take a rifle on the street cause it seems neat  
Whatever turns you on I guess, that's why vests are in season  
I'll do my show then I'm leavin  
I'd rather be blastin dope sounds on the other side of town  
than be there when they close the place down  
But anyway, everyday, there's another way  
for a person to just flip, so a brother may  
simply go buckwild, get crazy and mad  
I know the struggle my father had  
Poetry it comes from within, and will always win  
Hold captive bodies from end to end  
And at a party, I'll survey then slay with the quickness  
Displaying the fitness  
Easing the mind and relieving the tension  
And singing my own song... that's beyond comprehension

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Check The Technique"

*[Guru]*

You puny protozoa, you're so minute you didn't know the  
Gang has been watchin but instead of just squashin you  
I'm scoopin you up out of the muck you wallow in  
like a cheif chemist, other scientists are followin  
Plannin to examine you, on a petrie dish  
Sticking you and frickin you, just a teenie bit  
I'm clever, with science, but never relyin  
on false words from cowards who forever be tryin  
Insistin they come off, I let 'em get some off  
Then come back wit drum tracks, their ears could get numb off  
Blockbustin, like makin love, I'll never stop thrustin  
into your system, so just listen  
I'm like a neurosurgeon, operatin wit a purer version  
I write prescriptions, of words that fit in  
The thought gets prescribed, as I kick it live  
Cause it's more that a style, it's conceptual genius  
My effect on the scene is, to project that I mean this  
You deadbeat, wait until you see my next feat  
I get respect for the rep when I speak  
Check the technique

*[DJ Premier cuts]*

"Check the technique.." [x3]

"Check the technique and see if you can follow it"

*[Guru]*

I'm rushin you like a defensive end as I recommend  
that you comprehend, I could stomp you in  
a battle, contest, or war, what will occur  
will be the forfeiture, of your immature  
insecure for sure, meek, weak visions of grandeur  
To rudely awaken you, and then'll be breakin you  
Taxin without askin and trackin and snakin you  
Makin you succumb to the drums of GangStarr  
By far we are, truly gifted ones son  
But if you were to speculate or estimate us losin  
you'll be dyin, tryin to face the fate of your delusions  
Cause miscalculation, is all you're statin  
So I'm chumpin, puntin punks just like footballs  
Cause I wanna put y'all, back in the messhall  
to clean up the slop, and stop all the bullcrap  
Your rap's crazy wack, so don't try to pull that  
You're lackin the vernacular, I'm slappin ya and cappin ya  
and closin your jaw, cause you can't mess with GangStarr  
The Guru and Premier always dope with the blessed beats  
Dance your ass off Hobbes, check the technique

*[DJ Premier cuts]*  
"Check the technique.." [x4]

*[Guru]*  
"Bon voyage", "Sayanora", "Arriva derci"  
Your ass gets busted doodoo mustard, you tried to work me  
You irked me - because you copy and falsify  
And I don't care how many step up, cause you all can try  
to wish and fish for a style, here's a fishin rod  
These rhymes are hittin hard, constantly I'm gettin large  
Inevitably, I readily kick a slew  
of lyrics so deep, so don't sleep, but just peep me  
Puttin methods on records and spinning for each millisecond  
33 RPM's displays the art of men  
And as my rhymin builds you see my time it's chill  
..and then I look upon weak ones  
I'm teachin each one so they become redone  
Essays are relayed to twist you up like French braids  
or tied up like corn braids, cause I got a strong way  
Force like police raids to never be delayed  
I once was the least paid but I made the grade  
Cause this ain't a slave sale and I ain't the same stale  
rapper, no, I'm not a phony microphonist wit no blaster  
No type of real appeal or real - talent  
And it makes me violent man  
To see all of these peewee bee MC wannabees  
makin G's for some dumb companies  
and lots of money but no idea what is rap and what is dope  
So check out what the Guru wrote  
Cause I will prevail, give you tales as I unveil  
Have enough braincells so I can stay paid well  
Now I'm in the driver's seat, and rockin the liver beats  
Bouncin and boomin and blastin you to the next seat  
Shiek and unique with lots of kick like a cleat  
Check the technique

(.. chief unique technique..)  
(.. chief unique technique..)

*[DJ Premier cuts]*  
"Check the technique.." [x3]  
"Check the technique and see if you can follow it"

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Love Sick"

### *[Verse 1]*

Strangely enough I've been struck  
Affected by her smile  
And yo, her style is worthwhile  
And knowing that I'm deep like a river  
I feel I should give her  
Things that those others can't deliver  
Contrary to what I had wished  
it seems that I've been dissed  
But hey, I don't want to miss this  
wonderful opportunity  
My boys they try schoolin' me  
But see I know what I want  
Someone who'll be there for the whole nine  
This honey is so fine  
But now she's hung up the line  
Upset because I told her I'm busy  
She made like a grizzly  
And started chewin' my head off  
Screamin' that I spend more time with friends  
And also, she said I ruined her weekend  
I said "I know the stuff we had planned  
but please understand  
Right now I'm loungin' with my man"  
I guess I didn't realize I'd hurt her  
She said I had the nerve to  
just neglect her like that  
Then she started bringing up past things  
and she kept asking  
how come our love isn't lasting  
I said, "Hey baby, please calm down  
cuz I'm still around  
and it's for you that my heart pounds  
Can I call you later on?  
You say I treat you wrong?  
But why you flippin' on me?"  
She said something else and then click  
Left me alone on the phone with the tone  
And now I'm lovesick

### *[Verse 2]*

Relationships can grip with the pain  
Arguments in the crib, in the streets, on the train  
I'm crazy fed but then still  
When she ain't there I feel sad, I feel ill  
Frowning cuz I'm down in the dumps  
The other night I took her out

so she could shake her rump  
But after we were there for a few  
Some girls that I knew  
Stepped up and asked me to come to  
a party they were havin' at their house  
I looked at my girl, and yo, she started walkin' out  
I said "Hey love, just wait for a second  
And won't you just check it?  
It's all a part of makin' records  
Those were just some friends in the business  
No need to get angry  
So listen up while I kick this  
And what about the things we discussed  
about havin' trust?  
What's all this attitude stuff?  
Now hon, you know that I wouldn't play you  
But time after time, you let your jealousy sway you  
Hey don't you turn your back like that  
Come on, this is wack  
You're heated up like a thermostat"  
Then she stepped off in a whirlwind  
and I don't know when  
or if I'm gonna see her again  
I coulda sworn she was the right one to pick  
But now...man I'm just lovesick

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow"

Many MC's are mislead  
Mislead by the lies that they pump in their heads  
The money and the fame that they're hoping to find  
Will never come close to the scope of my rhyme  
Now some have been succesful but really  
And yo, these MC's are clearly not nearly  
Up to this level or should I say caliber  
Because I'm hype that the company's selling me  
Because they'll take a dud, talk some crud and then push him  
But in the next year, someone new will just squoosh him  
Because when you sell out to appeal to the masses  
You have to go back and enroll in some classes  
So cash in your check 'cause it's the last one you get  
The tables have turn and now you ain't in effect  
So jet to the rear and you better just follow  
'Cause what's here today maybe gone tomorrow

Here and gone in a flash, some made cash  
While other suckers go broke real fast  
Some never make any money but still they act funny  
Like they're thinking they're running  
Things, wearing rings and medallions  
Then listen to their rhymes when we rather take valiums  
'Cause swiftness and skills they are lacking  
So I send them packing, they should have know not to tax in  
And smashing all of the vocals to smithereens  
Watching them collecting themselves 'cause they ?(bitter seen)?  
But some find happiness while others find sorrow  
And what's here today, maybe gone tomorrow



# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Take A Rest"

*[Sugarhill Gang] "Now what you hear is not a test"*  
*[cut up x4 by DJ Premier]*

*[Guru]*

Well goodness gracious, let me just take this  
time out to pull a rhyme out, and update this  
For you and yours, simply because  
Some MC's have luck but suck  
So I pluck em like feathers on the back of a chicken  
Cause I'm mad like a pit when my man says, "sick 'em"  
Positive is the mindstate, but it could still mean that  
I will kick a ill, malicious like mean rap  
Suckers they forced me, to knock em all out and  
They think they know things, like what I'm about and  
They try to analyze criticize scandalize  
The outcome is death, don't ask me to sympathize  
Realize, that I'm not to be played with  
I'll flip so fast, you won't know I'm the same kid  
I'm tired and fed, with all the weak stuff said  
All the phony-baloney, that went out like Pro-Keds  
You've got no leads, so you shoot blanks  
It's me the crowd thanks as I step to the top ranks  
Bankin my money, and investin it wisely  
Snatchin up chumps when they try to sneak by me  
I'm the dominant one, call me the prominent one  
And as I'm speakin I'll be bombin the dumb  
deaf and blind cause I was born with a sharp mind  
Eatin MC's with ease like it's lunchtime  
or crunchtime, when they get done without warning  
I'll bust that butt from nighttime til morning  
Your song's boring, and so I'm scoring  
much points cause when it's time to throw joints  
I cause havoc, the mic I grab is like savage  
I invade the stage, and make you get off  
The force is like a three-eight, blowin your head off  
And that's just in case you might be wearin a vest  
Cause you're simply a pest in this mess I suggest you  
"Take a rest"

*[KRS-One] "If this meaning doesn't manifest, put it to rest"*  
*[DJ Premier cuts x2]*

*[Guru]*

Don't ever sleep son, peep one or two of these lines here  
Arranged by a great brain, delivering rhymes clear  
and concise with a nice dope voice and  
killin the fakes like a taste of some poison

Punks are thinkin they're alla that, their voices are all flat  
They're findin their names, in a Wack Rapper's Almanac  
Me follow that hollow crap, no way Jose  
I'll seek out a better sound, to somethin Premier plays  
Days will go by, and soon you'll know why  
MC's like me will rise like the Enterprise  
Starship, headin straight for the target  
Destination, a place where no perpetration  
is permitted, the Guru is with it to explain  
How some MC's are scared to ride on a Four train  
Or any other train in the city, for that matter  
Playin a role that they stole like a batter  
But I know they ain't so I'll paint the real picture  
My vocals go solo and like a bolo I'll hitcha  
square in your face I'll crack your ribs and your chest  
Cause you thought your off-brand jam was the best  
You fessed cause you guessed people would be impressed  
I'm gonna bust that bubble on the double "take a rest"

*[DJ Premier cuts "take a rest" for the chorus]*

*[Guru]*

Sit back and reflect, ponder and chill out  
Rhymes like daggers make blood spill out  
But you can't blame me, for bringin disaster  
With all these ducks, claimin that they're the masters  
Only thing they mastered, is how to get wacker  
As I roll uphill, they roll downhill faster  
Now they're wondering how they lost their touch  
Wanna buy my rhymes but mine cost too much  
I'm the innovative one, call me the creative one  
and I won't stop til the job is done  
All the slobs just run when I come to get some  
Cause they know better, than to challenge this go-getter  
They get bust you can trust cause I won't let a  
booty-ass rapper get wins against me?  
I guarantee that I won't act friendly  
Cause crabs have a nerve and deserve to get whipped on  
Their girls get kissed on, while they get flipped on  
I slaughter and slay, or slap em up quick  
Cause the lyrics they kick make me seriously sick  
No substance, no value, but nevertheless  
They're gettin daytime play but I still say they should "take a rest"

*[DJ Premier cuts "take a rest" for four bars, then song fades]*

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "What You Want This Time?"

*[Verse 1]*

*[Scratch: Telephone ringing]*

"Who's this? Juanita? Fatima? Solika? Oh, it's Freda?  
Look, I have a question, just what is it that you need  
A man, a lover, maybe someone to talk to?  
Or could it be you're schemin'? Oh, not you!  
Well listen, I got this phone installed for business  
And who gave you our number? Seriously, what is this?  
The new fad? Now you wanna kick it to a rapper,  
DJ or dancer? Well I don't have the  
Time for no stunts, no hookers and no games  
Our name and our fame is for the long way we came  
The struggle, the hassle, the hustle, the fight  
And you're asking me if you can see me tonight?  
Don't you know the Guru's not the type to be out skeezin'  
The reason is because I do believe in  
Havin' the right to choose the one I want  
And, if I had a girl, why would I front?  
You're only gonna get your feelings hurt, miss  
And truthfully I really don't wanna have to diss  
My music means everything to me, it's my life  
So make like a camper, and go take a hike  
You can't mess with my mind, and don't tie up my line  
You called yesterday, so what you want this time?"

*[Verse 2]*

"A-yo Premier (Yeah?) Who's that knockin' at the door?  
(Yo man, it's Vicky) Vicky? Are you sure?  
The one from down the block who was actin' all hot  
She stops me all the time and says she likes me a lot?  
How does she know where we live, I didn't tell her  
And word is bond, duke, I'm not the fella  
No matter what I say this young lady's persistent  
For instance, she watches me from a distance  
And if I walk by and I forget to say hi  
She pushes up on me and rubs me with her thigh  
I told her I was taken, but she doesn't care  
A-yo, do me a favour, tell her I'm not here  
Forget it, I think she heard my voice already  
You can let her in, but I'm tryna cook spaghetti  
Oh, hello, how you doin'? Who me? I'm fine  
I don't mean to be rude, but...what you want this time?"



# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Street Ministry"

Presenting you with alternative music  
'Cause, yo, the struggle is tough, and we must learn to live through it  
Pleasure and pain, pain and pleasure  
We gotta maintain a balance to obtain the treasure  
Not really preaching or teaching but just reaching  
Out to a brother or sister who is keeping  
The faith and trying hard to get straight  
The time is crucial so I think we must congregate  
Let's have a meeting of the minds  
Before we all fall and get left far behind  
Finding a way is important  
Map out a plan, take a stand, you can work it  
The future's all in your hands and  
So of yourself, yea, you should be demanding  
We're all responsible for whatever outcome  
That's why I speak over beats for my income  
Knowledge is key and if you ask what it is, G  
It's just a form of my style of street ministry  
Street ministry...

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Just To Get A Rep (LP version)"

Stick up kids is out to tax [x2]  
And this is how the story goes

Brothers are amused by others brother's reps  
But the thing they know best is where the gun is kept  
'Cause in the night, you'll feel fright  
And at the sight of a 4-5th, I guess you just might  
Wanna do a dance or two  
'Cause they could maybe bust you for self or wit a crew  
No matter is you or your brother's a star  
He could pop you in check without a getaway car  
And some might say that he's a dummy  
But sticking you and taking all of your money  
It's a daily operation  
He might be loose in the park or lurking at the train station  
Mad brothers know his name  
So he thinks he got a little fame  
From the stick-up game  
And while we're blaming society  
He's at a party with his man  
They got their eye on the gold chain  
That the next man's wearing  
It looks big but they ain't staring  
Just thinking of a way and when to get the brother  
They'll be long gone before the kid recovers  
And back around the way, he'll have the chain on his neck  
Claimin' respect, Just to get a rep

Ten brothers in a circle  
Had the kid trapped, the one wit the hood, he said, "We'll hurt you"  
If you don't run out your dues and pay  
Give up the Rolex watch or you won't see another day  
See, they were on the attack  
And one said, "Yo, you wanna make this to a homicide rap?  
Make it fast so we can be on our way  
Kick in the rings and everything, ok?"  
The kid was nervous and flinching  
And little shorty with the 3-8, yo, he was inchin  
Closer and closer, put the gun to his head  
Shorty was down to catch a body instead  
Money was scared so he panicked  
Took off his link and his rings and ran frantic  
But shorty said, "Now" pulled the trigger and stepped  
It was nothing, he did it just to get a rep



# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Say Your Prayers"

So many things will happen that one can't explain  
You find yourself saying "who me", time and again  
They say what goes around, comes around  
ahun, so think about it while you're messing up clown  
A mother's love and a father's concern  
Here is the reason you should listen and learn  
'Cause quick schemes and fast living can kill ya  
I know how the excitement and danger can thrill ya  
But take it from somebody who knows  
'Cause after all the highs, you're gonna feel all the lows  
This is why knowledge of self is essential  
'Cause if you don't have it, you may simply go mental  
See, life is not a thing to be toyed wit  
'Cause every second, another dream is destroyed wit  
The systematic plan devised to erase us  
And straight to hell is where they're trying to take us  
But never fold and hold back your fears  
Have a strong mind and try to say your prayers



# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "As I Read My S-A"

*[DJ Premier scratches]* "at this time I have the honor to present to you"

*[Guru]*

Paraphrased, portraying my viewpoint  
So stay attentive, cause this is a new joint  
From the G-A-N-G with the info  
Lyrical elements emerge from the intro  
Forming a poetic mass over pathetic trash  
Other writers are outclassed  
Surpassed by the words and the wit  
Rhymes fit and hit cause that's how we designed it  
Page for page, we are the new age  
Dope in the videos and dope when we're on stage  
Commanding respect with my ink pen while suckers are sinking  
as I'm keeping them thinking  
Narrating phrases of value, and I can see now you  
relate to what I create  
From back in the days of my youth, I've looked for the truth  
And yo my rhymes are the real proof  
New heights and new realms have been reached  
by use of my speech along with one of Premier's beats  
So listen and we'll show you the best way  
and then sway, as I read my S-A

*[DJ Premier cuts and scratches again]*

*[Guru]*

Worshipful words giving insight, so just be observant  
so you can get this right  
My oratory gift is abundant, so dazzling to minds  
that you should come get  
a glimpse of the one who puts wimps out of work  
The script is a mess and they dress like they're jerks  
Beyond them, is where I'll be dwellin  
The Guru will tell em, why their records ain't sellin  
Placin my fingers on the tool, I runaway all fools  
when I'm dispersin a verse  
Think of an enjoyable moment, then boogie your body  
Cause this party I own it  
The origin of this is on paper  
Vibes will ascend from my mind to each line  
I go with the flow as I show expertise  
The powers increase as my voice hits the streets  
Then gripping your soul with authority  
I pour these rhymes in a cup so drink up  
And then I might bring another round  
Watch the sound pound from the floor to the ground

And keep aware, cause we'll show you the best way  
And then sway, as I read my S-A

# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "Precisely The Right Rhymes"

*[Guru]*

My subject matter and context are blessed  
Vocal inflection connects, it's a slugfest  
Ladies approach to hear quotes from the spokesman  
Thoughts are like oceans for my lyrics to float in  
I'm absolutely astute so salute  
You try to be cute, and you get tossed like a crap shoot  
Don't misinterpret or slander  
Just get with the words and the way I command ya  
Cause you're in the right place, and luckily it's the right time  
And since I'm inclined, I'll kick precisely the right rhymes

*[Premier cuts and scratches]* "to kick the right rhyme"

*[Guru]*

Listen listen listen I'll tell ya  
My rhymes are like shelter, or rather like an umbrella  
Protecting you from the weak stuff you heard from those creampuffs  
about the schemes that they dreamed of  
About the way they slayed this one or that one  
but won't step to me, cause they know the last one  
who tried to match the panache of the Guru  
received a curse that was much worse than voodoo  
Cause the effect of my voice is immense  
It would make more sense if suckers hide in the basement  
But yo I don't look for hassles, my rhymes are like castles  
I got much flavor and class too  
I know you've notice I'm a writer of hype lines  
Because I'm inclined, to kick precisely the right rhymes

*[Premier cuts and scratches]* "to kick the right rhyme"

*[Guru]*

Precisely the right rhymes, simplistic but packed  
with power and punch, and yo you might want to step back  
But stay close as your host serves hors d'oeuvres  
Satisfying your cravings, and calming your nerves  
See I have an interest, in giving you more than the next man  
Cause my style is pure and  
if you are sane and remain in your right mind  
You'll see I'm inclined, to kick precisely the right rhymes

*[Premier cuts and scratches]* "to kick the right rhyme"



# Gang Starr Lyrics

## "The Meaning Of The Name"

The meaning of the name GangStarr, well I'll tell ya  
It means I find my mind can excel to  
a greater type of thought, brought by the things that I've been taught  
in relation to things that I rebel to divine and combine  
with a sense of confidence  
Accomplishments, are achieved off lots of gifts  
But slopiness, I could never tolerate it  
Not the Guru nor Premier you don't know how long we've waited  
While other groups have faded, just like haircuts  
We use sheer guts to open the eardrums of your brain  
to expose every vain  
Cause you sound plain, insane, and mundane, it's a shame  
You've got no beats, so you get no seats  
at this table, you ain't stable with the mic cable  
Kane and Able, jealous brothers  
And I knew some girls who were overzealous lovers  
But back to the act of developing the GangStarr track  
It means that nothing can be wack  
The music is picked right, the mic is gripped tight  
The lyrics I kick right to a beat like Kryptonite power  
Not withstood by any mortal or immortal  
To make you get on the floor til  
another dope jam we slam with precision  
Bringing beams of light, like the colors in a prism  
or reflections, through a spectrum  
And all the soft silly suckers I'ma wet them  
in other words destroy boy, and then claim my fame...  
This is the meaning of the name

*[DJ Premier cuts] "what does it all mean?"*

*[Guru]*

GangStarr, it means a lot to me  
It means I'm free to bust rhymes sporadically  
Gang represents my boys or a posse  
So just back up off me  
And the Starr symbolizes the power  
Making the suckers and weak brothers cower  
We got strong, intelligent minds with a street sense  
Crazy offense, and stupid defense  
Now, have I made myself clear?  
Or do I have to call on DJ Premier?  
For he and I make up the songs that you long for  
Meanwhile ducks just knock on the wrong door  
Waiting for a call or for the doors to open  
Cause they're hoping, that they'll get chosen  
But to be chosen is a divine gift

You better get a job quick  
See you can't rhyme and all your beats are weak  
You oughta take a peak and check out the technique  
Seek, and you shall find  
GangStarr stands for mastermind  
Simple and plain and yo this ain't no game lame...  
This is the meaning of the name

*[DJ Premier cuts]* "what does it all mean?"